

LEGENDS COMMEMORATE Ritwick Ghatak and Protiti Devi's birth centenary



Abul Hayat, among other distinguished guests, spoke about Ritwick Ghatak and Protiti Devi

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHDI
MORSVED

DOWEL BISWAS

At Chhayanaut's Ramesh Chandra Dutta Memorial Hall on Sunday, nostalgia met reverence as artists, activists, and admirers gathered to celebrate the birth centenary of filmmaker Ritwick Kumar Ghatak and his twin sister, singer Protiti Devi. The event, organised by the Ritwick Kumar Ghatak and Protiti Devi Birth Centenary Celebration Committee, honoured the two visionaries whose creative spirits defined and defied Bengal's cultural landscape.

The occasion also marked the 139th birth anniversary of language movement veteran and martyr Dhirendranath Datta, tying together three legacies of artistic and political resistance.

The ceremony began with Chhayanaut's young artistes performing *Dhronodhanne Pushpe Bhora, Amader Ei Basundhara*, their voices rising like a hymn to memory. The mood was tender, the applause steady — the audience seemed to know they were there for more than remembrance.

Producer Habibur Rahman Khan, who collaborated with Ghatak on *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam*, spoke with a mix of affection and awe. "My creative friendship with Ritwick Ghatak cannot be told in a single evening," he said. "We fought a lot, but he was like a child — laughing,

unpredictable, yet impossible to leave."

Khan recalled the chaos of working with the filmmaker. "He was so difficult to work with. There was no problem Ritwick couldn't create or solve. He worked on his instincts. Once, he stopped shooting just so 80 technicians could get paid without working. When I protested, he told me, 'Don't you know I've left many films unfinished? I don't work unless I want to.'"

Before filming "Titash..." Khan remembered, Ghatak arrived by the riverbank and drank its water — "to feel the essence of the country he so dearly loved."

Actor Abul Hayat, who made his debut in *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam*, called Ghatak



In attendance were many renowned cultural personalities

"absolutely a madman — and madly brilliant." "We were students when we fell in love with his films," he said. "His spontaneity and indifference were unmatched. From script to scene, everything bent to his will. "Titash..." has become a textbook in cinema history, and I feel lucky to have been a part of it."

Veteran actor Ramendu Majumdar, fashion designer Bibi Russell, and Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque reflected on Ghatak's unflinching portrayal of displacement, partition, and identity — themes that continue to shape South Asian cinema.

unpredictable, yet impossible to leave."

Khan recalled the chaos of working with the filmmaker. "He was so difficult to work with. There was no problem Ritwick couldn't create or solve. He worked on his instincts. Once, he stopped shooting just so 80 technicians could get paid without working. When I protested, he told me, 'Don't you know I've left many films unfinished? I don't work unless I want to.'"

Before filming "Titash..." Khan remembered, Ghatak arrived by the riverbank and drank its water — "to feel the essence of the country he so dearly loved."

Actor Abul Hayat, who made his debut in *Titash Ekti Nadir Naam*, called Ghatak



Laisa Ahmed Lisa performs at the event

Filmmaker Shameem Akhtar and human rights activist Sultana Kamal discussed his cinematic convention. "He broke every rule," said Kamal. "His films showed pain as beauty and despair as resistance."

Protiti Devi: the forgotten twin

While Ghatak's brilliance often eclipsed his sister's, the programme devoted space to Protiti Devi's artistry. Kishwar Kamal, a renowned singer and a close family member, described her as "a free spirit who lived life on her own terms. Like her twin brother, Protiti was an artist of immense depth. She sang, taught, and inspired — leading a quiet cultural renaissance in our family."

The second half of the evening belonged to music. Laisa Ahmed Lisa performed "Je Rate Mor," one of Ghatak's favourite songs, followed by Protiti's favourite, Atul Prasad Sen's "Ke Go Tumi Ele Asile Othithi". The performances moved many to tears.

Kishwar Kamal closed her heartfelt remarks with "Amar Ei Ghor Bohu Joton Kore Dhute Hobo," her voice trembling as she echoed the twins' shared spirit — defiant, emotional, tender.

Ramendu Majumdar reflected on Ghatak's short yet thunderous life. "In only 50 years, he created and achieved so much. If he had lived longer and healthier, who knows what heights he could have reached? The partition broke him, but it also birthed his greatest art. Ritwick was the raw, unfiltered mirror of society — nothing hidden, everything painfully honest."

As the evening drew to an end, the hall fell into a hush — as if the walls themselves were listening. Ritwick Ghatak, the "madman" who made cinema bleed, and Protiti Devi, the singer who carried that same madness in melody, were remembered not as relics but as living spirits of Bengal's creative conscience.

Their centenary was more than a commemoration. It was a reminder that true art — like madness — never dies. It transforms, waits, and returns.

Shah Rukh Khan unveils 'King' on his birthday

Shah Rukh Khan has officially announced his much-anticipated film *King* on his social media accounts yesterday. He shared it with a powerful caption that reads, "Sau deshon mein badnaam, Duniya ne diya sirf ek hi naam- #KING" (Infamous in a hundred nations, the world gave me only one name- King).

King is one of the most ambitious action thrillers in recent Bollywood history. It is directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marillion. The cast includes Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Rani Mukerji, Arshad Warsi, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, and Abhay Verma.

This announcement firmly confirms the film's 2026 release timeline. The title reveal was strategically released on Shah Rukh Khan's 60th birthday on November 2, making it an extra special gift for his millions of fans.

Yash, Totini's first collaboration on OTT in Shihab Shaheen's 'Tomar Jonno Mon'



After receiving accolades for his silver screen project, noted filmmaker Shihab Shaheen is back on the OTT platform with yet another romantic film, which is what he is mostly known for. The film titled *Tomar Jonno Mon* (For You, My Heart) will release on November 6 at Chorki.

The motion poster and trailer for the film have already been released. *Tomar Jonno Mon* features the popular and much discussed on-screen pair, Yash Rohan and Tanjim Saiyara Totini. According to the director, the story he wanted to tell required a pair who share an understanding both on and off screen.

NEWS

Experts ring alarm over risk to society

FROM PAGE 12

was mass defence and boosting reserve capacity, adding that the programme would teach weapon handling but not live firing.

Meanwhile, around 8,000 applications have already been submitted.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, security analyst Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, said the initiative could be detrimental if implemented without a clear national policy.

"This is a completely wrong idea. If the purpose is to strengthen national defence capabilities, there must be a specific policy framework approved at the national level — ideally through parliament. This is not a light matter.

"Countries that have national service programmes, such as Singapore or Switzerland, have comprehensive national strategies and legal frameworks guiding them. Implementing such a programme in a disjointed way can do more harm than good."

Muniruzzaman also raised concerns over transparency and oversight in participant vetting.

BNP, Jamaat obstructing

FROM PAGE 12

"One party is obstructing reforms, while another is perhaps trying to postpone the election."

Nahid slammed BNP and Jamaat for clashing over whether the referendum should take place before the election or on election day, calling the dispute "unnecessary and unproductive".

He also accused the parties of trying to divert attention by pushing for two different proportional representation models in the upper house.

The key issues and main points of debate are which reforms will be included in the charter, what proposals will be made, their legal basis, and whether Prof Muhammad Yunus will issue the implementation order.

"If consensus is reached on these points, the referendum can be held on election day or even earlier."

Nahid Islam said the NCP wants the February election to proceed

testing, or analysis, it could pose significant risks to the state and society."

He added that many youths are linked to political, economic, or extremist power structures and can be easily influenced due to fragile psychological conditions. "Trained youths could be exploited by any parties or ideologies. It is difficult to confront trained individuals, and this could compromise our security."

Contacted by The Daily Star on Saturday, Col Md Golam Mabud Hasan, director (Training) at BKSP, said they would use airguns during the training.

According to the BKSP admission notice, the 15 day residential training will be conducted in 114 batches at BKSP centres in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Khulna, Barishal, Sylhet, and Dinajpur.

Mob kills 3

FROM PAGE 12

C Circle), confirmed the incident, saying, "A police team recovered two bodies from the spot, while the injured man was taken to hospital."

Fahad Al Asad, resident medical officer of Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex, told this newspaper, "Police brought a man with injuries to our hospital around 7:00am, but he was already dead."

Bari said, "As it is a murder case, legal action will be taken accordingly."

Shafiqur re-elected

FROM PAGE 12

party's constitution, members of the Central Majlis-e-Shura first elect a three-member ameer panel through a secret ballot.

Then, the party's rukon across the country vote in a secret ballot to elect one of the panel members as the ameer.

Ehsanul Mahbub Jubayer, Jamaat's assistant secretary general and head of the central publicity department, told The Daily Star that since the party resumed its activities in independent Bangladesh in 1979, Ghulam Azam served as ameer until 2000.

Abbas Ali Khan acted as the party's ameer for more than a decade.

From 2000 to 2016, the position was held by Motiur Rahman Nizami, and by Mokbul Ahmad from 2016 to 2019.

Nahid Islam said the NCP wants the February election to proceed



Syed Nazrul Islam



Tajuddin Ahmad



M Mansur Ali



AHM Quamruzzaman

Inu, Hanif charged

FROM PAGE 12

"innocent," Inu said while standing in the dock.

The tribunal also framed charges in absentia against Awami League Joint General Secretary and former lawmaker Mahabubul Alami Hanif and three local AL leaders from Kushtia in a separate crimes against humanity case. As all four are absconding, their charges were not read out.

The tribunal fixed November 25 for the opening statement in Hanif's case and November 30 for the opening statement and deposition of witnesses in Inu's case.

During yesterday's proceedings, the tribunal chair said sufficient grounds had been found to frame charges against Inu after reviewing the investigation report and documents. Asked whether he heard the charges, Inu replied that he could not hear properly but understood the tribunal had rejected his discharge petition.

Inu then sought to speak further, prompting Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam to object, saying the accused could only plead guilty or not. The tribunal chair then said, "There is no option; you have to reply 'yes' or 'no'."

However, Inu said both the chief adviser and the law adviser had acknowledged the "ghost cases" and sought a solution, which pleased him. "Sixty ghost cases have been filed against me in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. I am devastated," he added.

After the proceedings, Tajul told reporters that the tribunal framed charges against Inu on the grounds of command and superior responsibility.

"As president of a key component of the 14-party alliance and one of its influential leaders, Inu played a central role in meetings that planned measures to suppress the movement — including curfews and shoot-on-sight orders," he said.

He added, "Inu also made provocative statements at different times, portraying protesting students as terrorists or members of Jamaat-Shibir BNP, thereby justifying their killings as legitimate."

Tajul also said Inu even discussed with the then prime minister the use of drones, helicopters, and bombings to suppress protesters. The final charge involves the killing of six people in Kushtia on August 5 under his instruction.

Replying to journalists about Inu's "ghost cases" remarks, Tajul said there was no scope to take such statements into cognisance.

On November 4, 1975, Kazi Abdul Awal, the then deputy inspector general of prisons, lodged the FIR with Lalbagh Police Station. ABM Fazlul Karim, the officer in charge of the station, was assigned to investigate the murders. He gathered evidence from the site following a magistrate's inquest report on the victims' bodies.

The Indemnity Ordinance, however, blocked any investigation or trial for nearly 21 years. Following its repeal in 1996, the Criminal Investigation Department reopened the case on August 18 that year.

In the early hours of November 3, 1975, five armed army personnel dressed in khaki uniforms arrived at Dhaka Central Jail around 4:00am.

According to the first information report, one of the men, identifying himself as Captain Muslemuddin from the Bangabhaban, entered the jail and gunned down the leaders.

The four leaders were imprisoned shortly after August 15 that year, the day Mujib and most of his family were killed.

Abbas Ali Khan acted as the party's ameer for more than a decade.

Speaking to the reporters, Nasiruddin Patwary said they agreed to accept "shapla koli" (water lily bud) as its electoral symbol.

Meanwhile, NCP leader Nasiruddin Patwary said they agreed to accept "shapla koli" (water lily bud) as its electoral symbol.

Speaking to the reporters, Nasiruddin Patwary said, "We are accepting shapla koli. But we have not yet received an explanation as to why shapla [which NCP had originally requested] cannot be allocated."

The four leaders were imprisoned shortly after August 15 that year, the day Mujib and most of his family were killed.